

JOINT CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES
February 5, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 12:06 p.m. in the Town Room, Town Hall.

Present: Kay Moran, Stephanie O’Keeffe, Molly Turner, Doug Slaughter, Diana Stein.

Absent: Kathleen Anderson, Elaine Brighty, Pat Holland

Others present: Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director John Musante, Schools Director of Finance and Operations Rob Detweiler, Library Director Bonnie Isman, Walter Wolnik

Musante reviewed the Town of Amherst Financial Policies and Objectives section on capital planning. No changes were suggested for now, although the next time the policy is revised, examples should be updated to the most current fiscal year.

Musante reviewed the existing five-year capital plan.

Musante reviewed preliminary estimates of funds available for capital spending. The large reduction in state aid expected for FY 10 means it’s unlikely we’ll be able to match the FY 09 plan’s use of 7.25% of the tax levy and will probably be down to 7%, whereas the existing five-year plan assumed 8%. The town, schools and library have submitted a total of \$13,539,000 in capital “shovel-ready” projects for possible federal stimulus money; the amount we may get is anybody’s guess. Musante and other staff are reviewing the status of previously appropriated capital projects. Due to faulty wording of Article 15 (capital equipment) at last spring’s Town Meeting, \$185,000 for fire department vehicles came from taxation rather than from the Ambulance Fund. Nobody’s taxes went up because of the error, and this spring’s Town Meeting will be asked to appropriate \$185,000 from the Ambulance Fund to “repay” the General Fund.

Committee members AGREED that JCPC would meet at 12:15 p.m. on Thursdays through April 2. Musante distributed a tentative schedule. Requests from the Department of Public Works were distributed for discussion at next week’s meeting.

Musante will provide JCPC members with copies of requests made to the Community Preservation Act Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Kay Moran, Acting Clerk